

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 01422 170437Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05
CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00
ICA-11 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01
OMB-01 PA-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-07 CEA-01 /114 W
-----123018 181234Z /50

R 170310Z MAY 78
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0761
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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PASS AGRICULTURE FROM NEELEY (AGR NO. PRC 8017)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR CH
SUBJ: AGRICULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS: CROP SITUATION IN PRC; CODE 24M
ALERT

REF: A) STATE 115254, B) PEKING 1358

1. DROUGHT CONDITIONS IN PRC DO NOT APPEAR SEVERE ENOUGH
TO CAUSE SERIOUS REDUCTION IN WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION.
COOL WEATHER AND LATE PLANTING MAY REDUCE RICE YIELDS. END
SUMMARY.

2. THE CHINESE PRESS HAS REPORTED DROUGHT CONDITIONS
IN THE LOWER REACHES OF THE YELLOW AND HUAI RIVERS (ANHWEI
AND NORTHERN KIANGSU), PARTS OF SHANTUNG AND HONAN AND IN
SZECHWAN AND YUNNAN. MEASURES ARE REPORTED BEING TAKEN BY
LOCAL POPULATION TO OVERCOME EFFECTS OF DROUGHT IN ALL
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PAGE 02 PEKING 01422 170437Z

AREAS OF LOW RAINFALL.

3. USLO REPRESENTATIVES FOUND CROP CONDITIONS NORMAL
IN AREAS OF SHANSI, SHENSI, HONAN AND HOPEH PROVINCES
VISITED DURING APRIL. SUBSEQUENT DRY WEATHER, HIGH
TEMPERATURES AND DRY WINDS COULD HAVE CAUSED DETERIORATION
OF WHEAT CROP IN THESE LOCATIONS, BUT WE HAVE HAD NO

REPORTS OF SUCH.

4. POOR WHEAT WAS REPORTED IN SOME PARTS OF EASTERN ANHWEI AND IN WESTERN SHANTUNG BY SULO OFFICER IN REFTTEL (B). HOWEVER, THE CROPS AROUND SUCHOW (KIANGSU) AND THROUGHOUT SOUTHERN KIANGSU PROVINCE WERE VERY GOOD.

5. USLO OFFICER TRAVELING IN NORTHEAST CHINA REPORTED THAT THE PARTS OF LIAONING AND KIRIN PROVINCE TRAVERSED

(BY TRAIN) WERE NOT AS DRY AS AROUND PEKING. IT WAS RATHER COOL IN SHENYANG, LIAONING AND WARMER THAN NORMAL IN CHANGCHUN, KIRIN. THE LAND WAS VERY WET NEAR HARBIN, HEILUNGKIANG AND ABOUT ONE INCH OF SNOW FELL ON MAY 11 BUT MELTED QUICKLY. SPRING WHEAT WAS GROWING THROUGHOUT THE NORTHEAST REGION BUT WAS VERY SMALL AROUND HARBIN AND SOME FIELDS HAD NOT BEEN PLANTED.

6. A SWISS AGRICULTURAL SPECIALIST, WHO HAS JUST RETURNED FROM A VISIT TO SZECTQAOSPKOL NCE REPORTED THAT CROPS LOOKED GOOD AND HE SAW NO EVIDENCE OF DROUGHT.

7. THIS HAS BEEN AN UNUSUAL WINTER AND SPRING IN MANY PARTS OF CHINA. WINTER TEMPERATURES WERE NOT AS LOW AS USUAL. SPRING IN MANY AREAS WAS ACCOMPANIED BY PERIODS OF WARMER THAN USUAL WEATHER FOLLOWED BY PERIODS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 PEKING 01422 170437Z

LOWER THAN NORMAL TEMPERATURES. IN MANY AREAS, WINTER WHEAT MADE MORE EARLY GROWTH THAN DESIRABLE. HIGH WINDS AND BLOWING DUST WERE GREATER PROBLEMS IN NORTH CHINA THAN LAST YEAR.

8. RAINS HAVE FALLEN IN SOME PARTS OF NORTH CHINA. IT HAS RAINED IN PEKING ON MAY 15-16. THE RAIN WILL BE BENEFICIAL TO THE WHEAT IN MOST AREAS, BUT IN SOME WILL BE OF LITTLE HELP.

9. THOUGH WINTER WHEAT HAS BEEN DAMAGED BY DROUGHT IN SOME

AREAS OF NORTH CW EGDTEEKUSNMQAFYTION IS ABOVE NORMAL IN OTHERS. DROUGHT OCCURS IN SOME PARTS OF CHINA ALMOST EVERY YEAR. WE DO NOT FEEL THAT THE SITUATION IS ESPECIALLY SERIOUS AND THAT THE WHEAT HARVEST SHOULD BE ABOUT NORMAL THIS YEAR. CERTAINLY IT SHOULD BE BETTER THAN LAST YEAR'S POOR CROP.

10. PROSPECTS FOR THIS YEAR'S RICE CROP WILL BEAR CLOSE WATCHING. THE WINTER IN THE SOUTH WAS RATHER DRY AND THE COLD, WET SPRING WEATHER DELAYED PLANTING OF THE

EARLY RICE CROP. USLO OFFICERS AT THE CANTON FAIR WERE TOLD THAT TRANSPLANTING IN THE AREA WAS BARELY COMPLETED BY APRIL 20, WHICH IS VERY LATE FOR THAT AREA, AND ON MAY 10 RICE WAS OBVIOUSLY LATE, THOUGH LOSSES SO FAR APPEAR MINIMAL.

11. BUSINESSMAN TRAVELING IN KWEICHOW PROVINCE IN LATE APRIL OBSERVED THAT RICE TRANSPLANTING HAD NOT BEEN COMPLETED AND WAS TOLD BY LOCAL CHINESE THAT SPRING RAINFALL HAD BEEN UNUSUALLY LOW.

12. TRANSPLANTING OF RICE IN THE NANKING AND SHANGHAI AREAS IS BEING ACCOMPLISHED AT ABOUT THE NORMAL TIME BUT SEEDLINGS ARE SMALLER DUE TO COOL CLOUDY WEATHER. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 PEKING 01422 170437Z

THIS COULD DELAY MATURITY OF EARLY CROP IF THE WEATHER REMAINS CLOUDY AND COOL.
WOODCOCK

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Message Attributes

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